

# NEWS RELEASE

UNITED STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE  
318 South Sixth Street  
Springfield, IL 62701  
Tel: 217/492-4450

RODGER A. HEATON  
U.S. ATTORNEY  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS



For Immediate Release  
October 24, 2006

Contact: John Childress  
Assistant U.S. Attorney  
(217) 492-4450

## **Two Springfield Men Plead Guilty to International, Internet-based Child Pornography**

### ***Worldwide 'Chat Room' Used to Trade Child Pornography***

Springfield, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that two Springfield men entered pleas of guilty today related to their use of a private Internet 'chat room' to trade images of child pornography. Sentencing is scheduled for March 5, 2007, for Billy Joe Bowser, age 34, of 916 Forrest Avenue (rear), and Anthony Adams, age 48, of 316 West Reynolds. Both have been detained in the custody of the U.S. Marshals Service since their arrests in March 2006.

During separate hearings before U.S. Magistrate Judge Byron Cudmore, Bowser and Adams pled guilty to charges of receiving, possessing and transporting child pornography. The charges against the two men were the result of an international investigation by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement of Internet-based child pornography using a chat room known as "Kiddypics & Kiddyvids." The chat room was hosted on the Internet through the WinMX software program that also allowed users to engage in "peer-to-peer" file sharing.

Bowser admitted possession of more than 20,000 images of child pornography. Adams admitted he possessed hundreds of child pornography images which he had downloaded using a "peer to peer" network.

The statutory penalty for each count of receiving and transporting child pornography is no less than five years in prison to 20 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000. For possession of child pornography, the penalty is up to 10 years imprisonment and a fine of \$250,000. Mandatory supervised release for both offenses is any term of years to life.

Both cases are the result of an investigation by the Springfield Computer Crimes Task Force, a multi-agency group dedicated to the investigation and prosecution of computer crime, and are being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney John Childress.

###